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WARTIME EXTENSION

WORK

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AUG 8-1944

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Some items in this week's summary:

Newfoundlanders help relieve shortage of dairy farm workers.
Bulldozer used effectively in removing trees and stones
and leveling land.
Home demonstration club spends a day a week at Army camp,
mending clothes for soldiers.
Total of 259,143 cattle treated for grubs in 73 counties.
Blossom thinning of tree fruits shows promising results.
Negro farmer sells \$900 worth of strawberries in first
2 weeks of harvesting.

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KANSAS
June 12, 1944

Livestock. - Conditions are favorable for beginning of feed crop, but problem of raising enough feed for high numbers of farm animals still exists. To improve feed-livestock situation, suggestions have been made for preventing excess sweet sorghum production and short grain production. With abundant moisture after roughage shortage in western Kansas, farmers are likely to produce sweet sorghums to point of waste. Grain cannot be balanced with livestock before 1945 harvest, so demand for grain is unlimited. Farmers have been advised through press and radio to purchase minimum needs of raw protein during summer to prevent serious livestock loss next winter.

Extension activities with respect to sheep and swine emphasized culling out of inferior animals; pasture planning to insure maximum yields during season; careful preparation and seed selection for maximum acreage of feed crops; continuation of parasite-control program.

Pooling graded shipments of fat lambs for better market and conservation of transportation has been urged. Producers have been encouraged to move grass-fat cattle as early as possible this summer.

Poultry. - Reports indicate marked reduction in poultry flocks and in egg production before fall in western Kansas. Feed is high priced and not too readily available. Chick production has been curtailed. Combination of factors will mean fewer eggs and less poultry meat in fall and winter of 1944 and spring of 1945.

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816-44

Meetings have been held at brooding demonstrations to emphasize importance of developing goodpullets for flock replacement. Series of poultry culling demonstrations was given. Major wartime poultry problem is to cull and reduce numbers in line with feed supplies and needed production. Early culling and orderly marketing are necessary, as produce concerns probably will not be able to handle market poultry during next few months. Commercial hatcheries in State have been urged to discontinue hatching during summer months.

Insect pests. - Corn-borer situation in heavily infested southwestern counties was surveyed and result control demonstrations were established in 10 counties. Hessian-fly infestation in central counties was delayed by cool spring. Surveys indicate insect is plentiful, but damage will be much less than in 1943.

Preliminary reports from 73 counties indicate cattle-grub control program was very effective. In these counties 80,510 cattle were sprayed. 72,917 washed, and 105,716 dusted -- total of 259,143 treated for cattle grubs. Value of treatment has been estimated at \$5 a head.

Agronomy. - Series of brome-grass production meetings emphasizing high-quality pasture was completed. To provide seed stocks of suitable hybrid corn for southeastern Kansas, 15 new producers were trained. These men will grow 39 acres of adapted hybrids.

Clothing conservation. - At sewing-machine clinics held by clothing specialists and agricultural engineer in number of counties, 194 machines were serviced. As result, sewing machines will be serviced in home demonstration club units directed by adult clothing leaders. Allen County home demonstration agent is assisting 4-H Club leaders to hold sewing-machine clinics for members and their mothers. Homemakers all over State are showing greater interest in home sewing and clothing repair.

4-H Club work. - Twenty first annual 4-H Club round-up on campus of Kansas State College was attended by 826 registered 4-H Club members and leaders. Major emphasis on 4-H contributions to war was given in such classes as Livestock Production in Wartime, Tractor Operation and Maintenance, A Meal in a Hurry, Physical Fitness, Our Expanding Neighborhood, Agriculture at Work for Industry, and Our Attitude Toward Peoples of the World. Round-up this year was shortened a day, and quotas assigned to counties permitted only half of clubs in each county to be represented.

To increase club membership and strengthen program, 24 temporary 4-H Club agents have been working in counties. Their work has done much to build stronger program in counties to which they were assigned.

Extension agents have been sent outline of cooperation to be given on collection of milkweed pods by rural youth.

MASSACHUSETTS
July 1, 1944

Farm labor. - Farm labor situation is generally favorable. Recruitment of boys and girls for VFV started early in most counties, and response was excellent. In some sections temporary surplus of youth help will be valuable reserve as requests for workers come in later.

Shortage of dairy farm workers has been relieved somewhat by Newfoundlanders. Of allotment of 100, 64 have arrived and been placed. Farmers in general report satisfaction with work of these men. Worcester County is using British sailors for periods of a few days to a week with good results. In Plymouth County 150 Jamaicans are working on cranberry bogs and in Hampshire about 50 on shade-tobacco farms.

Total of 123 nonfarm boys 14 to 16 years of age completed 1-week dairy-farm training course. Many of these VFV's are tiding over farmers who can get along reasonably well in winter but need additional help for summer. More than 300 boys and girls from high schools, private schools, and a women's college have helped to harvest asparagus crop in Hampshire County. Severe damage to strawberries and hay lessened need for labor. Dry weather and frost cut strawberry crop by 75 percent, making it unnecessary to use large number of enrolled VFV boys and girls. Some farmers in areas where hay crop was far below normal canceled orders for extra help.

U. S. Employment Service offices in cities are cooperating fully with emergency farm labor assistants. One U.S.E.S. office has already supplied emergency weekend help, and others are prepared to do so.

Victory Gardens.-- State will have about as many home gardens, and individual gardens in community plots, as in 1943. However, with favorable weather, garden food production is expected to be considerably greater. Garden meetings have been fewer than in 1943, chiefly because many people who received necessary information last year are not attending. Gardens are better planned this season, both for family need and as to varieties of vegetables grown. More attempts are being made for greater production per garden. Home gardens, as well as commercial producers, suffered somewhat from two nights of extreme cold in May. Most home gardeners replanted or reset lost plants.

Fruit.-- Several Massachusetts apple growers have tested blossom thinning, newly developed method of thinning tree fruits, with promising results. One grower applied 4,000 gallons of diluted material on Wealthy, Early McIntosh, Baldwin, and other varieties. He reports labor cost in hand-thinning sprayed trees (Early McIntosh) is about half that for unsprayed trees.

In spite of heavy frost of May 19, apple growers probably will harvest about as many apples as in 1943. Orchards with good air drainage show little or no damage, but occasional orchard in frost pocket was heavily damaged. Bulldozer is being used effectively in number of orchards to remove unwanted trees. One grower reports cost of tree removal was only 36 cents a tree, even though some trees were as much as 18 inches in diameter. Bulldozer is also used in removing stones and otherwise leveling orchard floor to facilitate spraying. One grower recently cleared 9-acre tract of trees and stones for about \$80 an acre.

Poultry.-- Hatchings of chicks have shown substantial reduction since May 1. Few hatcheries operated during June, except those having definite orders to fill. Few plants will reopen on sizable scale until fall. Raising of fall-hatched chicks is well established in State and will continue this year. Liquidation of flocks was moderate to heavy until late June. Higher egg prices brought encouragement, and selling of hens dropped to those eliminated by regular culling. Use of picking machines for home dressing has increased materially. Many fowls from this year's crop will be home-dressed. Feed so far has been adequate.

4-H Club work.— Liberty Ship, S.S. George L. Farley, sponsored by 4-H Clubs, will be launched at South Portland, Maine. 4-H leaders and members chose this means of honoring memory of late "Uncle George," under whose leadership 4-H organization of Massachusetts was developed. County club agents report 290 adult organizations cooperating in 4-H agricultural projects this year: 84 Granges; 14 Rotary, 10 Lions and 9 Kiwanis Clubs; 21 adult garden clubs; 10 feed companies; 11 fair associations 108 town committees; 23 other organizations. In 9 counties, Rotary, Lions, and Kiwanis Clubs distributed 12,440 baby chicks. One county grange gave out 150 pounds of seed corn to 20 4-H corn club members.

PUERTO RICO
June 21, 1944

Conference on extension methods was held in May for all personnel. After completing 10-hour course in job instruction training, 96 members received certificates. Conference, conducted by Gladys Gallup, of Washington, D. C., and Mary E. Keown, of Florida Extension Service, was complete success.

Dry spell is definitely over. Rainy season has started, and farmers have been preparing land and planting.

Emergency war food assistants are continuing intensive campaign for food production and preservation. Emphasis is placed on training of leaders.

Through efforts of Extension and in cooperation with War Production Board, arrangements were made for farmers to obtain molasses for feeding livestock without having to see lawyer and sign papers. Farmers are helped to fill in single form available in county agent's offices. This is sent to WPB for final consideration and approval.

First monthly letter for neighborhood leaders was released during May. Women's patched-garment contest was held to encourage clothing conservation. Patchwork done by competing home demonstration women was considered excellent.

TEXAS
June 13, 1944

Poultry.— Extension poultry specialists have given much time to assisting egg producers in relieving adverse marketing situation. Demonstrations in preservation of eggs and their use in family diet were given at group meetings of county agents called for discussion of problems of egg marketing and utilization. Specialists also conferred with 17 county agents on poultry and egg production and marketing problems. They attended 3-day tour of turkey plants, with breeders, producers, hatcherymen, and feed dealers and observed new methods and equipment for improvement of management and sanitary conditions.

Beef cattle.— Beef-cattle specialists judged spring livestock shows, including 4-H Club shows in seven counties. Large entries were the rule. At Plainview, more than 300 head of beef calves, swine, and sheep were shown. Calves were dry-lot fed yearlings, majority weighing more than 1,000 pounds each. Swine were sold on local market and calves and lambs shipped to Kansas City where calves brought \$16.50 a hundredweight.

Dairy shows. - At 11 Dairy Day shows in various sections, extension dairy husbandmen classified animals by type, judging them against score card rather than against one another. Adults and youths took part in judging contests. At shows extension dairymen discussed phases of eight-point milk-production program for 1944. Timely topics in eight-point program continue to be emphasized in extension dairymen's monthly news letters and radio programs.

New feature of Galveston County show was production class in which 14 cows with dairy herd-improvement association records were entered. Cows were lined up according to rank in production, then classified and given combined score based on 60 percent for production and 40 percent for type. Upon realignment by combined score only two changes were made from line-up by production. Dairymen believe Dairy Day shows have done more to teach type to Texas dairymen than any previous educational program. Wherever two or more shows had been held, definite improvement in type of animal exhibited was noticed.

Soil improvement. - Soil liming has been featured during past 2 months, but acidity tests before liming are recommended. County agricultural agents and farmers are being taught to make tests. At three district conferences of county agents and in many east Texas counties, method demonstrations taught acidity analysis and possible benefits of liming acid soils.

Mohair grading and marketing program. - In spite of fast-moving mohair market, 1 million pounds of 1944 spring mohair clip is moving out of State on graded basis. Grading was introduced by Extension 3 years ago. Grading program, to encourage producers of higher quality mohair and wool, now is sponsored jointly by Texas Mohair Grading Committee and Texas Extension Service. Considerable volume is graded each season for warehousemen and dealers. Flock-improvement demonstrations are being set up in principal sheep- and goat-producing areas.

Conserving clothing. - "Mend, darn, patch, and wear it out" has prolonged life of 29,844 garments in Texas rural homes, county home demonstration agents report. Total of 2,600 Coleman County families have practiced this kind of thrift. Members of Lamarque home demonstration club of Galveston County spend 1 day a week at Camp Wallace mending, darning, and patching for soldiers, from privates to generals, and have mended 3,751 garments. They do everything from sewing on buttons to altering uniforms. Some blouses and slacks are ripped and cut down to fit, or gussets are added to make them conform to rotund figures. Army has high enough regard for work to send station wagon for women.

Women's activities. - Four women's home demonstration clubs were responsible for sale of \$71,000 of \$99,000 Fourth War Loan quota of Upton County, according to final check. Members of two of these clubs, Garden and McCamey, packed boxes of home-made cookies, cake, and candies, valued at \$103, and expressed them to Army's McCloskey General Hospital at Temple. Many county home demonstration councils are appointing what they call defense committees to keep members of clubs and council informed on possibilities for war service. Defense committee of Smith County reports sale of 310 pounds of fat by 14 clubs. At request of Red Cross, 24 Bexar County clubs appointed 100 rural workers to make membership canvass.

Work simplification. - To promote simplification of work in home, extension home-management specialist gave demonstrations to 58 county home agents in three districts, showing value of saving time and energy. Illustrative material consisted of household kits assembled for sewing, repair, cleaning, first aid, and for office organization. Training school on work simplification was held for women leaders and home demonstration agents in 8 counties, and schools on home business centers in 2 counties. Additional demonstrations showed ways to save time and labor in preparing and serving meals, and after-meal clearing.

Food preparation. - During downward trend in egg market, extension foods committee worked with poultry specialists on plan to help emergency. Facts on preservation, nutritive value, and use of eggs were presented to general staff conference. Recipes using eggs were distributed to newspapers and county home demonstration agents, and notes on uses and food value of eggs were broadcast. Method demonstration on one dish dinners was presented to county home demonstration agents in two districts, and at training meetings for emergency war food agents. Demonstration was correlated with meal planning and showed how homemakers can prepare well-planned, adequate meals quickly.

Home safety. - To create safety habits, demonstrations in safeguarding against accidents and fires were given to girls' 4-H Clubs by extension home-improvement specialist. Each girl was given list of things she could do to prevent home accidents and guard family health. Extension publication, Prevent Farm Fires, has been distributed freely to club girls and home demonstration clubwomen. Most of women agreed to take six copies to friends and interest them in making homes safe against fires.

Farm labor. - Recruitment and placement of nonfarm, town and city youths, for farm work this summer is going on in 90 Texas counties. County agents report that through May 31, total of 3,030 youths had gone to work on farms. Brown County led with 506 boys, and Mitchell County was second with 201. State farm labor service had sent 5,022 workers to farms. Only 4,500 prisoners of war will be available for agricultural work in Texas this season. Prisoner labor will be allocated on acreage basis and used only in critical areas. Combine situation was well in hand in counties where small grain cutting was under way. Later 800 more combines and 2,000 machine operators and other farm hands will be needed. Appeal by Dallas County agent for harvesters brought quick response from members of Mexican colony of Dallas city. Group promised help in supplying boys 14 to 16 who have no regular jobs, and elderly men and women, to aid short-handed farmers.

Negro activities. - In 30 counties 180 negro 4-H Club boys are carrying registered swine as major demonstrations. Pigs are those distributed to selected boys in each of counties last November, and negro county agents report assisting them in breeding, worming, and grooming. Most of boys are growing some of their feed. At request of garden demonstrators, 209 insect control demonstrations were conducted in 20 counties by negro extension agents. In Colorado County 36 sweetpotato demonstrators are pledged to plant 115 acres. Demonstrations were started from breeding of potato and carried through to production. Emphasis is placed on better quality and better yields. Orange Johnson of Smith County sold more than \$900 worth of strawberries in first 2 weeks of harvesting. At 7 demonstrations 3 communities of Brazoria County, 1,520 head of livestock, including cattle, hogs, and horses were vaccinated to prevent seasonal diseases.